

Application No. 10/705,350
Amendment dated August 27, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 27, 2004

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-16 (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A disposable net assembly for a removal system for floating debris comprising:

a knitted, flexible mesh net having a mouth at one end, a closed end, and a rim surrounding the mouth;

a frame surrounding the mouth of the net, the frame having an upstream side and a downstream side, an inside and an outside;

the frame being formed of four members including a top member, a bottom member and two side members;

the frame having at least one clamping element and a plurality of projections extending integrally either from the frame or the clamping element[[,]];

the net being secured to the frame with the rim thereof extending over the projections between the clamping element and the frame on one side of the frame, and with the net wrapping from the projections around the upstream side of the frame, and with the closed end extending to the downstream side of the frame.

18. (currently amended) The assembly of claim 17 wherein:

the frame is formed of a plastic material of four straight members including a top member, a bottom member and two side members, each member having a plurality of holes therein;

the net is secured around its rim to the frame, with has the mouth thereof extending from the downstream side thereof of the frame, around the outside of the frame, around the upstream side of the frame and over the plurality of holes; and

the frame has at least one clamping element thereof having a plurality of posts projecting therefrom, said clamping element being secured to the members with the posts snapped into the holes and clamping the mouth of the net to the frame.

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19. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 17 wherein:

the side members of the frame are inwardly tapered in the downstream direction and wider, in the upstream-to-downstream direction, at the top than at the bottom.

20. (currently amended) The assembly of claim 17 wherein:

the at least one clamping element includes a set of four straight plates, each having posts projecting integrally therefrom;

the holes are on the inside of the members; and

the plates clamp the mouth of the net to the frame along the inside of the members.

21. (currently amended) The assembly of claim 17 wherein:

the at least one clamping element includes a rectangular frame clamping portion having the posts projections thereon; the holes in the frame and the posts in the frame clamping portion facing in one of the upstream or downstream directions and clamps the mouth of the net therebetween.

22. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 17 wherein:

the projections extend outwardly from the outside of the frame and the clamping element is a tension band extending around the frame with the mouth of the net and the projections between the band and the frame.

23. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 17 wherein:

the projections extend outwardly from a groove around the outside of the frame and the clamping element is a tension band extending around the groove with the mouth of the net and the projections between the band and the frame.

24. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 17 wherein:

the net is formed of a high strength and high stretch yarn, with rolled sewn seams and having reinforcing on the seams and on high stress areas of the net.

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25. (currently amended) The assembly of claim 17 wherein:

~~the frame having an upstream side and a downstream side, an inside and an outside, and being formed of four members including a top member, a bottom member and two side members; the outside of the side members being are tapered inwardly front-to-back and the upstream-downstream sides converging converge from top to bottom.~~

Claims 26-31 (canceled)

32. (currently amended) A disposable net assembly for a removal system for floating debris comprising:

~~a rectangular frame formed of four members including a top member, a bottom member and two side members, each member having two opposite ends and at least four sides, the sides including an upstream side and a downstream side opposite the upstream side, and an inside and an outside opposite the inside, each member being joined at each end to an end of an adjacent member to form the rectangular frame;~~

~~a knitted mesh bag-shaped net having a mouth attached around the perimeter thereof to the four members of the frame; and~~

~~at least two of the members each having at least one side thereof that is tapered relative to the side that is opposite thereof.~~

33. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 32 wherein the at least two members having the at least one side that is tapered being the two side members each having the upstream and downstream sides thereof that converge from top to bottom.

34. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 33 wherein the at least two members having the at least one side that is tapered being the two side members each having the upstream side thereof inclined downstream from top toward the bottom thereof.

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35. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 34 wherein the at least two members having the at least one side that is tapered being the two side members each having the outside thereof inclined inwardly from upstream to downstream sides thereof.

36. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 35 wherein the at least two members having the at least one side that is tapered being the two side members each having the inside and the outside thereof that converge from upstream to downstream.

37. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 34 wherein the at least two members having the at least one side that is tapered being the two side members each having the inside and the outside thereof that converge from upstream to downstream.

38. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 33 wherein the at least two members having the at least one side that is tapered being the two side members each having the inside and the outside thereof that converge from upstream to downstream.

39. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 32 wherein the at least two members having the at least one side that is tapered being the two side members each having the inside and the outside thereof that converge from upstream to downstream.

40. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 39 wherein the at least two members having the at least one side that is tapered being the two side members each having the outside thereof inclined inwardly from upstream to downstream sides thereof.

41. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 40 wherein the at least two members having the at least one side that is tapered being the two side members each having the upstream and downstream sides thereof that converge from top to bottom.

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42. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 40 wherein the at least two members having the at least one side that is tapered being the two side members each having the upstream side thereof inclined downstream from top toward the bottom thereof.

43. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 39 wherein the at least two members having the at least one side that is tapered being the two side members each having the upstream side thereof inclined downstream from top toward the bottom thereof.

44. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 32 wherein the at least two members having the at least one side that is tapered being the two side members each having the upstream side thereof inclined downstream from top toward the bottom thereof.

45. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 44 wherein the at least two members having the at least one side that is tapered being the two side members each having the outside thereof inclined inwardly from upstream to downstream sides thereof.

46. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 32 wherein the at least two members having the at least one side that is tapered being the two side members each having the outside thereof inclined inwardly from upstream to downstream sides thereof.

47. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 46 wherein the at least two members having the at least one side that is tapered being the two side members each having the upstream and downstream sides thereof that converge from top to bottom.

48. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 47 wherein the at least two members having the at least one side that is tapered being the two side members each having the inside and the outside thereof that converge from upstream to downstream.